

state was put on her Republican tack again

HAMILTON'S ASSAULT ON THE CONSTITUTION.

The same passion was played upon in the same way by Hamilton and the "monocrats," who undertook to revolutionize the new Government by the assumption of implied powers at the close of the last century. It was even stronger then than now. The pressure of the Revolution had not been removed until the contending nations of Europe began to rival each other in the destruction of American commerce, and the young republic for years trembled on the verge of a conflict wherein the firmest union of the States would have been as important as during the Revolution. Sebastian Cabot's time had not yet come, and the States which should go as well as to the States which should remain. The very word was terrible in the ears of men who had just achieved political and commercial independence, and knew that both would be completely sacrificed by disunion. The time of the Revolution was over, the Confederate States would each have been constituted a great nation, but in 1800 no respectable power could have been formed by any subdivision of the whole. Upon this dread Hamilton and his political associates laid hold, and the people were hurried to the support of the new Constitution. When the Fugitive bill was to be passed under circumstances which enriched a class of favored speculation and formed a Treasury party in Congress, the Union was said to be in danger. When the State Legislatures were to be dissolved, and the prospect of separation had already taken form; and when the national bank, the parent of "the monster" of Jackson's time, was brought forward, its pains alone were capable of nursing a strong confederacy, and contenting its several members in the same family. When the Fugitive bill was to be passed, concealed with the pretext; and the people realized the mischief which had been accomplished in the mean time. At the close of the Adams administration, with its extravagance and corruption, its British sympathies, its alien and its native enemies, its proslavery principles, its pinheads of editors, its prisoners filled with the victims of political persecution, the revolution came, and the ever-infamous attempt, so like that of 1876, to seat a President against the will of the people, completed the good work. The people were again deceived, and the ship again swept away for the foul, and no man of that generation saw its foul head raised again. "The Constitution was saved," said Jefferson, "at the last gasp." The people and the States reclaimed the rights which had been flinted from them, and the people were again deceived. In the Hamiltonian sense was the word "saved," and the process of consolidation was not unshared arrested, but reversed. "The ship was not

British Executive! He is placed above suspicion; he can have no interests distinct from the public welfare. Nothing short of such an Executive can be efficient." * * * Let one body of the Legislature be constituted during the term of office of the Executive.

Let one Executive be appointed who directs all his powers,

"It may be asked, is this a republican system? It is strictly so as long as they remain elective and let me observe that an Executive is not dangerous to the liberties of the people when it is elected by the people and for a short term of years."

Let electors be appointed in each of the States to elect the Executive *There Mr. D. proposes his plan*, to consist of two branches, and would give them the unlimited power of passing *all laws without exception. If the Senate* be elected for life, and the Executive for three years to be elected for three years by the people in the States, the Senate to be elected by electors chosen for that purpose by the people, and to remain in office during life. The Executive to have the power of localizing all laws; to make treaties with their advice, but to have the sole direction of all military operations, and to pardon and pardon all offenders, treason excepted, unless by advice of the Senate. On the subject of the President, the President of the Senate to officiate, with the same power, until another is elected. Supreme judicial power, until appointed by the President and the Senate to the Legislature to appoint courts in each State and to make the State Governments void unless they comply with the laws of the Union."

"All State laws to be absolutely void which contravene the general laws. An officer to be appointed in each State to have a negative on all State laws. All the militia and the appointment of officers to be under the national Government."

"I confess that this plan, and that from Virginia are very remote from the people. Perhaps the Jersey plan is nearer their expectations. But the people are gradually ripening; their opinions of government; they begin to understand the rights of democracy; and I trust that even in the Virginia Convention, a great change will be effected."

HAMILTON'S POINT OF ATTACK.

These were Col. Hamilton's "Ideas of a re-constructed plan of government." They were received by the Convention with silence, not to say contempt, and were heard of no more. The men of the Revolution had less taste for that sort of government than a man of color, from Africa, had for a government of his own kindred, and his fellow Africans in their plan of monarchy, were forced to make reluctant choice, between the severe

But Hamilton understood also the value of economy as an accessory to power, and he grasped the importance of the President in the intercourse of the President with his fellow citizens. He went in a coach and six, attended by outriders in livery, and followed by members of the Administration in a coach and four, with a numerous and stately retinue to the White House. He was dressed in a frock coat, like a king's speech. Congress, having dressed upon an "address" in reply to the speech, attended the President in a body to present it. All forms of etiquette were arranged to the minutest particular after the manner of the highest courts. The most striking part of it was extreme, picturesque, and was to be repeated, and there is reason to believe that of some of it he was subsequently almost ashamed; but he was persuaded to submit to it, as being necessary to maintain the dignity of government. Hamilton even went so far as to suggest that no more, prices of the President should be regulated by private interview with the President, except members of the Senate, who, like the peers of France, should alone enjoy this high privilege. Still he was not satisfied. The experiment had succeeded better than he expected, but he said: "I am not satisfied. I do not submit it to you or to Bourkeba, but the present government is one that which will answer the needs of society by giving stability and protection to its rights, and that it will probably be found expedient to go into the British form."

Jefferson's "Bill of Rights," which he is informed is to supersede the "system of Jefferson," upon which the Union was founded, and upon which it flourished in liberty, peace, and security for more than half a century—or, to be exact, from the moment a genuine republican administration, sincerely cherishing the rights of the citizen, was instituted in 1793, to 1861, until the last Democratic Administration went out of power in 1861. The brief incursions of the Whigs in 1840 and in 1848, scarcely amounted to interruptions, since their measures were never suffered to succeed, and the Democratic Administration promptly reasserted the tried rules of Democratic Administration, whose value these new departures were served to illustrate.

JEFFERSON'S DEVOTION TO LIBERTY.

Jefferson was a born Democrat. He not only believed firmly in the right of the people to govern themselves, but in their ability to do it better than it ever had been or ever could be done by any other government. He was fortunately for mankind, and fortunately especially for the country, which, in his eyes

"But," said it was the tone of society and the talk of the drawing rooms and dinner tables which most astonished the Democratic Secretary of State. Classes were already formed and the divisions officially recognized, and amid the pomp and ceremony insisted by Hamilton the prevailing sentiment sounded strangely un-American. The Declaration of Independence, the Declaration of Independence. The sympathies of this pseudo aristocracy were unreservedly British, and the late Ambassador at London was not a little shocked by the comments he was forced to hear on the mild burning of the effigy of George III. "The very reason of liberty was that a hearty well-wisher soon ascertained that while the Secretary of State could not well be excluded from these social circles, he was not essentially welcome." Hamilton's candor alone was entirely unacceptable. He was too candid, too frank, too unambitious to the principle of monarchy, business, elective and honest, said at table: "Purge that (the British) Constitution of its corruption, and give to its popular branch equality of representation, and it would be the most perfect Constitution ever devised by the wit of man." "I have no objection," said Hamilton in answer, rejoined: "Purge it of its corruption, and give to its popular branch equality of representation, and it would become an impracticable government; as it stands at present with all its supposed defects, it is the most perfect government which ever existed."

THE FEDERALISTS IN POWER.

Upon Mr. Jefferson's retirement the Federalists assumed the usual position of opposition, as always for improving every opportunity

THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE REPUBLIC.

Mr. Jefferson's sovereign cure for all the ills of the State was the introduction of the most rigid economy. The Government is sold out corrupt and never oppressive. He cut down the great military and naval establishments bequeathed by the Federalists as rapidly as the law permitted; and finally, with the aid of Congress, reduced the army to a few hundred men, which were all that an honest Government would need for. He reduced the diplomatic force to three Ministers at London, Paris, and Madrid. He dismissed unnecessary officials as at investigation disclosed their existence. He directed Gallatin to simplify the Treasury and eliminate all offices not absolutely indispensable to the plainest citizen, and invited every aid in the work of reform. The whole system of internal taxation, including three-fourths of the whole civil list, was abolished at a blow, and the deficiency supplied

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the most unquestionable of the rights of civilization, and she was entitled to the priesthood in almost all national religions, and Mrs. Gage's warranted indignation at the proof of women's taking part in the offices of the primitive Christian Church—notwithstanding the prejudices of Paul and other revealed converts—is to be found in the very remarks which she at that time made, and which are based upon her. The doctrine of woman's original sin lies at the base of the religious and political disqualifications under which she has labored in Christian communities. To Augustine we are indebted for the full development of this dogma, which he applied to the church. Father de Fénelon, the great French Church, before his time, had rejected. Taught, henceforth, as one of the most sacred mysteries of religion, which to question was to hazard eternal damnation, it at once excited a most powerful and repressing influence upon women, fastening upon her a bondage which she could not shake off, and which was not to be asseuwered wholly to cast off. According to Chrysostom, "Woman is a necessary evil; a domestic peril; a deadly fascination;" and from the seventh to the eleventh century the most pronounced doctrine of the Church was that woman's sin had been introduced into the world, that she was the cause of man's toward evil, and that had it not been for the unfortunate oversight of her creation, man would be dwelling in the innocence and happiness of Eden. The Church, looking upon woman as under a curse, considered man's Gage's kindly exposed account for its encouragement, and it is not surprising to find under Christianity only parts of a just punishment for having caused the fall of man. Christian theology thus at once struck a blow at the old belief in woman's equality embodied in the customary laws of the Teutonic nations.

From Roman civil law, it took woman stand as a slave, and she was forbidden her to speak in the churches, and by various decretals taught that she was defiled through the physical peculiarities of her nature, placed the legitimization of marriage under strictly control, secured to husbands the right to divorce, and once not freeing the wife and farset it back to her, and the priest was to hold single women far above the wife and mother in point of holiness. We need not say at the refusal of the priestly office to women, with its denial of the benefit of clergy, as a grave disability in medieval times, and the various laws which subjected an ecclesiastic to a far heavier punishment than a layman, and the punishment in the case of a lay transgressor.

Mrs. Gage points out, however, that the exclusion of women from the priesthood, naming counter as it did to the customs and sentiments, not only of the Roman world, of all Germanic peoples, was a long and distant error. As late as A. D. 824 the Council of Frankfurt forbade the exclusion of women from the altar, and even gave to the people a view of the blood of Christ. Only eight years previously the Council of Aix-la-Chapelle found necessary to prohibit abbesses from taking on themselves any priestly function. The abuse, of course, through these nations, the Council of Frankfurt, the Council of Aix-la-Chapelle, preached, baptized, administered the sacrament, and filled various offices of the Church. Franching the gradual encroachments of nature upon the civil and common law. Mrs. Gage shows how the former became supreme in the daily relation through its control over such guardianship of orphans, marriage, and the like. The laws of the Church, in the legislation, the rules of succession and inheritance and the laws in regard to children, married and the interests of wives and daughters to